6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

No sentence of death can be passed on a pregnant woman or a person under the age of sixteen years.

A youthful offender may be dealt with:

(1) by placing him on probation, or
(2) by discharging him after due admonition, or
(3) by delivering him to his parent, guardian, or relative, who has executed a bond for his good behaviour, or
(4) by fine, or
(5) by whipping, or
(6) by ordering his detention.

There are three Magistrates including the Chief Magistrate who individually exercise the powers of a Magistrate of the first class as provided by the Criminal Courts Ordinance 1937, and regular sittings are held at Crater, Tawahi and Sheikh Othman.

An appeal lies from the Magistrate's Court to the Supreme Court in all criminal cases in which a sentence of imprisonment exceeding one month or fine exceeding Rs. 50 has been passed and the Supreme Court has also powers of revision.

During the year Rent Tribunals were set up for the assessment of the standard rent of lettings. The Tribunals are not staffed by the Judicial Department but the Supreme Court can entertain an appeal from the decision of a Tribunal.

The Courts performed their usual functions throughout the year. On the criminal side there has been an increase of cases in the Magistrates' Courts.

In addition to His Honour the Judge of the Supreme Court the Judicial Staff consisted of Mr. Nunn, Chief Magistrate and Messrs. Mansoor and Kazi, Magistrates of the first class. During the year Mr. Nunn was on leave from 2nd June, 1948, to 4th October, 1948, during which period Mr. Mansoor acted as Chief Magistrate and Judge of the Small Causes Court and Mr. Kazi continued to act as Additional Judge of the Small Causes Court.

Although there were seven professional pleaders in the Colony, in the great majority of civil cases even in the Supreme Court one or both parties appeared in person without a pleader. This fact and the Indian procedure as followed in the Colony whereby every step in pleadings involves an appearance before the Judge causes a great deal of delay which could be obviated by procedural reform. On the criminal side in the Magistrates' Courts similar delay is caused by the fact that a preliminary enquiry has to be made in every case punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months before the accused can be charged and required to plead. This requirement exists irrespective of the facts of any particular case and even though the case is one that may be tried summarily without recording the evidence.

There is a considerable amount of civil litigation in the Colony. During 1948, 459 civil suits were filed in the Supreme Court and 326 civil suits were finally decided. Six applications for civil revision were filed and all were decided. Twenty-eight civil appeals were lodged in

Mechanical Workshop

655 496 A vehicle workshop is maintained where all Government motor vehicles are serviced and repaired. Animal drawn vehicles such as refuse carts, night soil carts, etc., are also made and repaired.

655 322 *Furniture*

The Government instituted a scheme to manufacture and repair furniture on hire to officials residing in Government houses. Two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds was spent during 1949 and 1950 on new furniture made in the workshop and obtained from contractors.

653 331 *Building Plans*

Building plans submitted by the general public for approval are checked and then forwarded to the Township Authority for sanction. All buildings in course of erection are inspected at regular intervals to ensure that they comply with regulations. Two hundred and seventy-six permanent building permits were issued during the two years.

Crown Lands

423 427 653 The Director of Public Works, who is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, scrutinises various titles submitted to him for transfers of immoveable property. All transfers are registered. One hundred and forty-five plots of land were leased to the public for the erection of residential, commercial and industrial buildings in the period under review.

653 *Stores*

As many new works and all maintenance works are carried out by direct labour, large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Stocks valued at £91,200 in 1949 and £78,000 in 1950 were issued from the Central Stores Depot.

464 *Labour*

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining skilled artisans but plenty of labourers were available. The standard of tradesmen is not high, but it is hoped that the new Technical College will go a long way to raise the standard.

Chapter 11: Communications

ROADS

[496] 491 499 There are no railways in the Colony and the communication between the townships is by road.

The main roads are constructed in bituminous macadam, and the carriage-ways vary in width from 20 feet to about 40 feet. Some secondary roads are similarly constructed. There are about eight miles of streets in the bazaar areas which have not yet been made up.